

Trayan returned to war in 114, and spent the remaining years of his life campaigning on the empire's eastern frontier. Here the great enemy was the Parthians, rulers of a once powerful empire which had defeated several Roman armies in previous centuries, but was now in decline. The immediate cause of hostilities was Parthian

interference in the Kingdom of Armenia,
a buffer-state lying between frontiers
of Rome and Parthia. The Parthian emperor
had succeeded in placing his own nominee
on the throne of Armenia, thus upsetting
the delicate balance of power on the
eastern frontier. Trajan advanced in force
and changed Armenia from a buffer-kingdom
to a Roman province